- 21. The connection elements according to claim 16, wherein the flexible lips have surface area enlargements near an end of the flexible lips.
- 22. The connection element according to claim 17, wherein the flexible lips have service area enlargements near an end of the flexible lips.
- 23. The connection element according to claim 16, wherein an opening in the body of the plug-in connection element tapers outward for receiving a corresponding taper.
- 24. The connection element according to claim 23, wherein the closure part has a collar on its end opposite the opening.
- 25. The connection element according to claim 23, wherein the closure part has a plurality of peripheral beads.
- 26. The connection element according to claim 25, wherein the closure part has a plurality of peripheral beads.

## IN THE ABSTRACT:

Line 8, delete "consists of" and insert therefore --preferably includes--.